IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A surface covering comprising:
- a consolidated layer comprising jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprise a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.
- 2. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region has an amount of filler level different from the amount of filler level of the second region.
- 3. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region comprises a first polymeric material and the second region comprises a second polymeric material.
- 4. The surface covering of claim 3, wherein the first and second polymeric material are thermoplastic.
- 5. The surface covering of claim 3, wherein the first polymeric material has a first average molecular weight and the second polymeric material has a second average molecular weight.
- 6. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region includes a first material and the second region includes a second material.

- 7. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the first region is transparent or translucent.
- 8. The surface covering of claim 1, wherein the consolidated layer further comprises a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, the second particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first jaspe agglomerated particles.

9. A welding rod comprising:

consolidated jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprises a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.

- 10. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region has a filler level different from a filler level of the second region.
- 11. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region comprises a first polymeric material and the second region comprises a second polymeric material.
- 12. The welding rod of claim 11, wherein the first and second polymeric material are thermoplastic.

- 13. The welding rod of claim 11, wherein the first polymeric material has a first average molecular weight and the second polymeric material has a second average molecular weight.
- 14. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region includes a first material and the second region includes a second material.
- 15. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first region is transparent or translucent.
- 16. The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the consolidated layer further comprises a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, the second particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first jaspe agglomerated particles.

17. A method of forming a surface covering comprising:

agglomerating a plurality of particles to form a jaspe agglomerated particle, the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle each including at least one polymeric material, a first plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of a second plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle; and

consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles to form a layer having a jaspe finish.

- 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric material comprises a thermoplastic.
- 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles are consolidated to form a layer by pressing in a roll press, a flat bed press or belted press.
 - 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the roll press is a calender.
- 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the belted press is a double belted press.
- 22. The method of claim 17, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles are mixed with a second plurality of particles including at least one polymeric material prior to consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles to form the layer.

- 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the second plurality of particles which are mixed with the jaspe agglomerated particles are jaspe agglomerated particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles.
- 24. The method of claim 17, further comprising grinding the jaspe agglomerated particles.
- 25. The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material exhibiting a first color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second color.
- 26. The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material exhibiting a first shade of a color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second shade of the color.
- 27. The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight.

- 28. The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size.
- 29. The method of claim 17, wherein the first plurality of particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle are transparent or translucent.
 - 30. A seamed surface covering comprising:

two surface covering sheets joined by a seam, the seam including a consolidation of jaspe agglomerated particles, the jaspe agglomerated particles having a first region and a second region of different visual characteristics.

- 31. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the surface covering sheets comprise a consolidated layer including jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated particles comprises a first region and second region of different visual characteristics.
- 32. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the seam comprises a thermoplastic.
- 33. The seamed surface covering of claim 30, wherein the seam is visually distinct from the surface covering sheets.

34. A method of making a welding rod comprising:

agglomerating a plurality of particles to form a jaspe agglomerated particle, the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle each including at least one polymeric material, a first plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of a second plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle; and

consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles into a welding rod having a jaspe finish.

- 35. The method of claim 34, wherein consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles includes pressing the jaspe agglomerated particles into a substantially flat sheet and molding the substantially flat sheet into a plurality of welding rods.
- 36. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles includes mixing a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles having a visual characteristic different that the visual characteristic of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles prior to consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles into in welding rod.
- 37. The method of claim 34, further comprising grinding the jaspe agglomerated particles.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein the visually different characteristics are selected from the group consisting of a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size, a first polymeric material being substantially opaque and a second polymeric material being substantially transparent or translucent, a first polymeric material exhibiting a first color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second color, a first polymeric material exhibiting a second shade of a color, a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, and a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a first average particle size

39. The method of claim 34, wherein of particles which form the jaspe agglomerated particles are thermoplastic.